

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of November 7, 2006. The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mochizuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,405). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki et al. as modified by Sakanobe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,934) as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Ardito (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0191056) and Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,837,577). Further, the Office Action rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki et al. as modified by Sakanobe et al. as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Ardito and Matsumoto et al. (JP61141560). The Office Action objected to claim 2 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Finally, claims 9-14 are allowed.

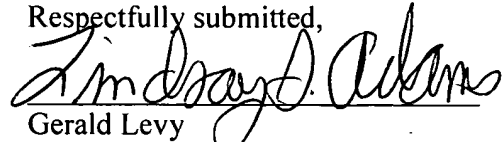
In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the elements of claim 2 into claim 1. Since claim 2 was considered allowable if rewritten in independent form, by incorporating the elements of claim 2 into claim 1 should make claim 1 allowable. As a result of the amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, and 8 have also been amended so the claims now directly or indirectly depend from claim 1. The amendment to claim 1 should make all rejected claims now allowable over the references cited in the Office Action.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to early issue.

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Applicants do not believe that any fees are due, however if any additional fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Levy  
Reg. No. 24,419

Lindsay S. Adams  
Reg. No. 36,425

Attorney for Applicant

Day Pitney LLP  
7 Times Square  
New York, NY 10036-7311